

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

**Listing of Claims**

1-73. (Cancelled)

74. (Previously Presented) A base for a food container, comprising:

a bottom having a periphery; and

a side wall upwardly extending around the periphery of the bottom, the side wall defining an interior of the base, the side wall including

a plurality of first rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of first rib units including a first outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a first inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the first inward projecting rib being shorter than the first outward projecting rib, the first inward projecting rib being narrower than the first outward projecting rib; and

a plurality of second rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, at least one of the plurality of second rib units being disposed adjacent one of the plurality of first rib units, each of the plurality of second rib units including a second inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the second inward projecting rib being shorter than the first inward projecting rib.

75. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib is formed within the first outward projecting rib.

76. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

77. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

78. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and the first inward projecting rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle and the second angle being unequal.

79. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 78 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

80. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward extending rib is at a first depth in the side wall and the first inward extending rib is at a second depth in the side wall, said first depth is different than said second depth.

81. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the outward projecting rib extends into the bottom a first distance and the first inward projecting rib extends into the bottom a second distance, the first distance being greater than the second distance.

82. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib and the first inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the depth of the first inward projecting rib extending into the bottom being greater than the depth of the first outward projecting rib extending into the bottom.

83. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first outward projecting rib extends to a first height in the side wall and the first inward projecting rib extends to a second height in the side wall, the first height exceeding the second height.

84. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the side wall is disposed at an angle ranging from about 5° to about 44° relative to a vertical axis.

85. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first inward projecting rib is disposed at a first angle relative to a vertical axis and second inward projecting rib

is disposed at second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being different than the second angle.

86. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 further comprising a plurality of third rib units formed in the side wall upwardly extending from the bottom, each of the plurality of third rib units being positioned adjacent one of the plurality of second rib units, each of the plurality of third rib units including a second outward projecting rib extending away from the interior and a third inward projecting rib extending towards the interior, the second outward projecting rib being shorter than the first outward projecting rib.

87. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the third inward projecting rib is formed within the second outward projecting rib.

88. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

89. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the third inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

90. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at an first angle relative to a vertical axis and the third inward projecting rib is disposed at a second angle relative to the vertical axis, the first angle being unequal to the second angle.

91. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 90 wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle.

92. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib is disposed at third depth in the side wall and the third inward projecting rib

is disposed at a fourth depth in the side wall, the third depth being different than the fourth depth.

93. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib and the third inward projecting rib extend into the bottom, the second outward projecting rib extending into the bottom farther than the third inward projecting rib.

94. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 93 wherein the height of the third inward projecting rib in the bottom is greater than the height of the second outward projecting rib in the bottom.

95. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 86 wherein the second outward projecting rib extends a first vertical distance up the side wall and the third inward projecting rib extends a second vertical distance up the side wall, the first vertical distance being greater than the second vertical distance.

96. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the second inward projecting rib extends into the bottom.

97. (Previously Presented) The base of claim 74 wherein the first and second inward projecting ribs extend into the bottom, the first inward projecting rib extending further into the bottom than the second inward projecting rib.

98-118. (Cancelled)